



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2018



## The Chairman's Report

Yet another excellent WESTBEX although the weather was a bit damp at first. There were over 100 visitors and it was a good day for them and most of the dealers.

Many thanks to our club members for their time and effort in making the event such a good success.

Thanks to all those who helped with the setting up on the friday evening and the clearing away after the fair.

Thank you to the Westbex committee of Graeme for all the dealers and bookings and to Martin for the publicity, signage and programmes.

To Ann Martin who yet again organised a great raffle and sold the tickets for us and also to Jean who 'manned' the front desk with Ann for the whole day giving out programmes with Graeme and selling more tickets. Many thanks to all three and to those who donated raffle prizes.

We just could not hold the event without all of your assistance.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 53

Issue 140

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Ann and Jean our front-of-house receptionists

*For further information on  
anything in this newsletter  
please contact*

*Martin Farr, Editor  
Tel 01635 866437*

*or*

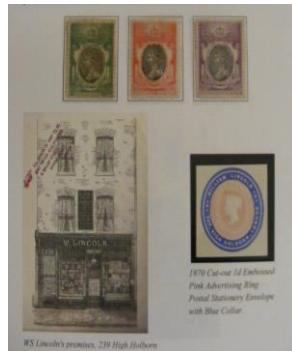
*Graeme Stewart, Secretary  
Tel 01635 866942*



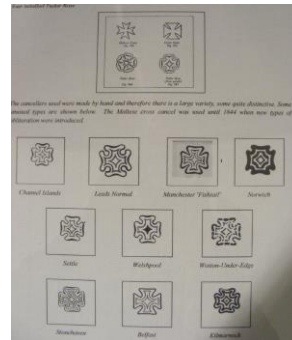
## Photo Gallery



Barney Entertains



W S Lincoln Labels



Maltese Cross Varieties



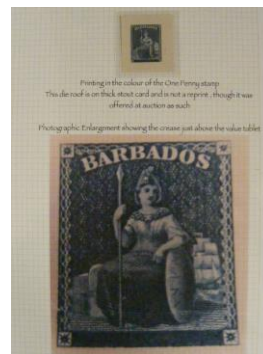
Society covers of 2000



1673 Map of Barbados



Richard Stupples



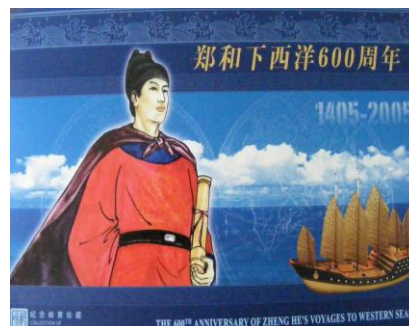
The 1d proof



The Barbados Post Offices



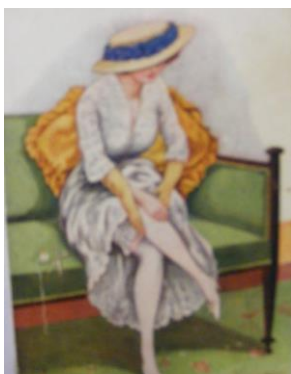
Post Office No.1 – St Michael



Zheng He  
Admiral and Navigator



Part of a Soldiers Alphabet



Sister Susie



A nice Antarctica cover



Graeme and Neil



Ross Dependency  
FDC's

## PAST EVENTS

**The Christmas Competition Results**

The Jubilee Cup	Won by Nathan Gregory with “ Commonwealth Key Plates”
The Reg Rhodes Sheild	Won by Nathan Gregory with “Post Office Savings Stamps”
The Keith Foster Trophy	Won by Nathan Gregory with “Free Franks”
The Novices Cup	There were no entries for this
The Single Sheet Salver	Won by Nathan Gregory
The Society Trophy	Won by Nathan Gregory

**Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> The subject for the meeting was the 1940`s  
and there were 16 members present**

The meeting produced the usual interesting variety of material from those displaying.

**Malcolm Hoskins** began, not with stamps, but with a collection of wartime ephemera that included Government “Safety First” leaflets, clothing and petrol coupons, ration books and a 1940`s copy of the Highway Code. He then continued with a 1946 calendar and ended with a lovely recipe book of the era. Great stuff!

**Bob Paterson`s** display was of commercially used covers from the “French State” – the rump of unoccupied France with Field Marshal Petain as head of state. The material included many censored covers as well as items sent by Express Post. Nice material.

**Andrew Gore** then showed stamps of the state of Bahawalpur, which became independent in 1947 following the partition of India, but which subsequently became part of Pakistan in the same year.

Finally, to finish off, **Graeme Stewart** showed us material of that era relating to the local area. This included a letter from the Law Society (whose offices had re-located to Newbury), censored mail to the USA and Portugal and a letter to an address in Cold Ash from a POW. He then showed us other items including letters with “Peace” cancels and the 1947 royal wedding. Then a cover from Bolivia to Newbury and the 1947 Olympic Games issues on a cover to Canada.

All in all a most interesting afternoon.

**Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**“The Chairman Entertains” and there were 16 members present on a cold evening.**

**Barney** started off by explaining how he got started into the hobby and then began to describe his exhibits to us. He started with sheets about the 1839 Treasury competition for the best plan for postal stationery covers. There were over 2000 entries but Mr Hill was not too happy with any single one and so incorporated some of the ideas into his own Mulready covers and into the 1d black design. He showed lots of sheets of 1d black issues and its variations from plate 1 to plate 11 and early covers showing many more of the issues plus a sheet of all the Maltese Cross cancellations. Then a lovely sequence of



Revenue stamps all very colourful plus `Bills of Exchange` sheets of all different denominations and he finished off part 1 with 17 different sorts of `surcharge` issues and some letters and Canal transported mail from 1846.

**Barney** started part two with sheets of `wing margin` issues of 1855 plus lots of colour variations – the 4d carmine, the 6d lilac and the 1/- green – all with lots of variations. Then he showed quite a lot of lovely franked covers from 1862-1872. Then he spoke about all the issues and variations of the early issues including all the 3d colour variations, the 6d lilac and mauve from 1865 onwards, 10d red/brown, the 1/- green plate differences, the 2/- blue of 1867 and the 6d chestnut and grey which eventually changed to portrait style. What a tremendous evening of both material and overall knowledge about all the early GB issues! Great Stuff! Thank you Barney.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February “Black and Blue” and 15 members were present**

There were only four presenters today and **Ian Keel** started the afternoon by showing some of Juliets photos of persons dressed in blue uniforms. Several girl guides, some policemen and a trainee sailor.

**Martin Farr** was next and his exhibit was sheets all about Zheng He and his fellow navigators from the 1420`s. They successfully navigated all around the Pacific Ocean spreading Chinese largesse and bringing back exotic items and animals to China. They journeyed into the Atlantic and across to South America and round to the Pacific. Admiral Zhou Wen got caught in the mid-Atlantic current and was swept up the east coast of America and it is well documented that, in 1421, he travelled round and across top of Greenland and Siberia and so back to China via the Bering Straight.

This was not believed until 2011 when, with a warming sea, two ships navigated the same route. The dots on the map show where Chinese ships stopped or were wrecked and where many artefacts both tangible and genetic have been found.

**Graeme Stewart** managed to find some sheets of the theme and showed some 1d black and 2d blue stamps and a nice sheet of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1d black. Then two nice covers of the first anniversary of our Westbex fair of May 6<sup>th</sup> 2000 at Newbury College – it was also the 160<sup>th</sup> of the 1d black as well. He then showed some nice Mourning covers with the black surrounds including one with a Thatcham post mark and one from Newbury. Graeme then finished off with some attractive postcards.

Finally **Dave Tanner** showed a memorial booklet of the Queen`s Silver Jubilee with stamp issues from throughout her reign.

Not a bad afternoon with quite a lot of interesting items to view.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February “Barbados” with guest Richard Stupples.  
and there were 21 members present.**

Barbados was the first stop of the new world for ships coming from Europe and Africa. Richard showed early hand-franked letters from 1783, 1804 and 1814/5 and then a collection of early ship delivered mail. The lots of sheets of stamp designs and imperforated varieties from SG1 to SG20 covering 1852-60. Then he showed most of the perforated varieties from the 1/2d yellow/green with all the colour and shade varieties. He followed with lots of sheets of issues up to SG83 and several letter forgeries including quite a few modern ones.

Then he showed a nice photo sequence of the post offices of Barbados.

During the break Richard handed round a fantastic reproduction of a 1673 hand-made map of Barbados beautifully mounted within a gilt frame upon a wooden base.

Richard started part two with specimen multiples of 1938-47 and sheets of re-designed stamps then many sheets of 60 blocks of stamps of design and paper types. These were followed by a large selection of covers with these issues on them. Then sheets of GB stamps used in Barbados and finished up with a lot of photos and pictures of Barbados some lovely hand-drawn cartoons and several hand cancelled covers. What a very interesting and entertaining afternoon.

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March “Neil and Graeme Entertain”**

**Neil** started by explaining his presentation which was all about Propaganda of WW1 and how he spent his work and time visiting many places in Germany, especially the flea markets, to acquire these items and much more material that we see today. Neil showed and spoke about many heavily censored postcards from the German trenches. Each sheet showed a picture card and the address and messages that were on the reverse. Then Neil showed sets of very patriotic and religious cards (strange to say). These were followed by many sheets of `poetry` cards sent from the front in 1916 to the soldiers families, once again, heavily censored. The soldiers ABC cards were quite interesting as were the funny ones (from Germany?). All in all a very interesting set of material, very well presented and described for us.

There was a mini-auction at half time and 8 lots from 23 were sold

**Graeme** then took over for part two and spoke about Antarctica and Ross Island Dependency detailing their history and what went on there over the years – and still does. He showed sheets of maps of the areas and cancellations at Scot Base with a nice sequence of covers of the NZ Antarctic Society. Then covers that went through the Dependency franking machines with nice overprints. Then some lovely First Day covers and sheets of cancellation types with Scott Base auto cancels. Graeme then showed several sheets of Greenpeace stamps and covers and several about the Air Antarctic crash. He finished off with a series of covers and cancellations sent to the rest of the world.

Once again, a nice sequence of material from `Down South` giving us lots of information about the region. Thanks to both Neil and Graeme for an informative afternoon.

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March “New Acquisitions”**

There were 8 speakers at the meeting with only 12 members present!

**Malcolm Hoskins** showed a great sequence of Federal Germany covers of Flak Regiments and Military he has been gradually accumulating. **Ian Keel** showed Royal Mail issues of Star Wars. **Martin Farr** showed a sequence of sheets telling the story of the Mutiny on the Bounty and **Barney Bardsley** told how he is now collecting other items as 1d blacks he wants are sooo expensive and he showed sheets of the Wantage tramway and how it joined up with the GWR line. **Colin West** showed a variety of items acquired at Provincial auctions – lots of assorted covers all addressed to an F M Cole in 1937. **Francis Connolly** showed proofs of GV issues all with different colours and shades. **Andrew Gore** showed a great sequence of old postcards all of East and West Ilsley – pubs, clubs, streets, local fairs and the hunt. And **Graeme** finished the evening with a great set of photos and prints of Thatcham and Newbury. A good evening.

## THE WESTBEX PAGE



A Fair View



Phillip and Paula



TVPF Competition winners

The Westbex Raffle was again a success. Thank you so much for all your efforts. The Raffle Prizes and winners were as follows;-

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£100	Alan Cross	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Wine	Malcolm Hoskins
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Book	Bob Patterson	4 <sup>th</sup> prize	Chocolates	Mike Gurr
		5 <sup>th</sup> prize	Stamp Album	Malcolm Gascoine	
		6 <sup>th</sup> prize	Paper Weight	Colin Bartholemew	
7 <sup>th</sup> prize	Wine	Reg Rhodes	8 <sup>th</sup> prize	Feet stuff	Martin Whybrow
		9 <sup>th</sup> prize	Design Book	Trevor Cornford	
10 <sup>th</sup> prize	Wine	Brian May	11 <sup>th</sup> prize	Stamp book	Mr Cornish
		12 <sup>th</sup> prize	Wine	Glen Slater	

**The National Philatelic Society** held their Regional meeting and there were only three people attending –very disappointing. As a result there were no displays or a meeting.

### The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-sheet competition results

#### Traditional Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Colin Davies	Oxford	9th Postal Union Congress
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ian King	Henley	Juarez Colman Letter Cards
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony Simmons	Maidenhead	Nigeria 1961 Definitives

#### Postal History Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Kitson	Oxford	B.P.A, in Cartagena, Colombia
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	Tangier Ship Letters
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Edward Gropper	Henley	Pneumatic Mail, Vienna 1875-1918

#### Thematic Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	Ireland Revenues
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Potts	Oxford	German Poster Stamps, Castle Theme

#### Open Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	David Potts	Oxford	Opatija Tourism
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Martin Farr	Thatcham	Zheng-He 14 <sup>th</sup> C Chinese Navigator

Martin was awarded the trophy as David Potts had entered 3 classes.

#### Aerophilately Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Eddie Spicer	Maidenhead	Jusqu`a Airmails of Colombia
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#### Cinderella Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	Ireland Revenues
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Potts	Oxford	German Poster Stamps

### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

Tony Bray for World new issues at [www.tonybray.co.uk](http://www.tonybray.co.uk)

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

The society website with lots of data and links at [www.tdps.co.uk](http://www.tdps.co.uk)

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at [www.avionstamps.com](http://www.avionstamps.com)

\*\*The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International\*\*

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at [www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk)

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

### **Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues**

April 17th	Re-introduced Species
May 11th	The Old Vic
June 5th	The Royal Academy of Arts
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dads Army

A notice in the Kennet Leisure Centre on the swimming pool door

The shower units are being cleaned and serviced today.

Please bare with us while the work is carried out !!!!!!!

### **The Packet Circuit**

A gift to all our Packet Vendors! As some of you are aware, your committee has agreed to cancel the 10% charge raised against those of you who submit booklets for circulation.

The Packet Circuit is a Club service to both vendors and purchasers.

The time and effort which goes into preparing booklets for circulation is very much appreciated and the dropping of the 10% levy will be back- dated to March 2017.

The circuit has a membership of 21 and there is always room for more. There are currently 200 booklets in 15 packet boxes in circulation ( including a few from Basingstoke) with a wide range of philatelic material on offer, mainly GB and Commonwealth but foreign and world countries are included.

Yours in Philately,  
Neil Hatton.  
Packet Secretary

# THE BACK PAGE

## “Club Stamps” corner

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

### Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200 ) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95 ) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

### Future Programme and Events

Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> April	“Furry Things”
	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> April	Southern England Stamp Show at Bracknell Leisure Centre
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> April	Tristan Brittain and the Northamptoners
		Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May is a public holiday and so....
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> April	“Entertainment”
	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Malcolm Hoskins and Martin Farr visit Wokingham
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> May	“The Seychelles” with Sue Hopson
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> June	“The Weather”
	12 <sup>th</sup> June	Neil Hatton and Graeme Stuart visit Camberley
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> June	“Free Fronts/English Errors” with Nathan Gregory
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	The Monday Cup and “Americano”
		(4 <sup>th</sup> July is American Independence Day)

For all other fairs and exhibitions please see the back of your membership card.

### Society Needs and Wants

An extra pair of hands to help with the tea and coffee will be appreciated, especially at the Monday meetings.

We still need a volunteer to take on the Archiving and Storage of Society documents  
The Society needs a Competition Co-ordinator.

We are still looking for representatives for the Thames Valley and Hampshire Federations

### Officers of the Club

**President** John Baron  
**Chairman** Barney Bardsley  
**Vice Chair** Still vacant  
**Secretary** Graeme Stewart  
**Treasurer** Mike Ward

### Committee

Colin Bartholemew 01635 865457  
 Neil Hatton 01635 280639

**Archivist** Still Need One

**WestBex** Graeme, Martin and Ann

**Publicity**

Martin Farr